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NEW DETENTE IS REAGAN'S AIM AT SUMMIT

SANTA BARBARA, Cal.

— President Reagan hopes to persuade new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to sign a "declaration of principles" when they meet next fall. The Post has learned.

Such an agreement would add up to peaceful coexistence between the two superpowers.

Senior administration officials said yesterday that work has begun in the White House on an agenda following Gorbachev's acceptance of a summit meeting with Reagan later this year.

Officials expect that Reagan's first face-to-face meeting with a Soviet leader will take place in New York or Washington this fall.

It probably will coincide with ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of the United Nations.

Reagan's policy of rejecting a "get-acquainted session" still stands, officials say, as does his view that a summit must produce concrete results.

But the administration does not anticipate that the arms control talks now taking place in Geneva will bear fruit in time for the two lead-

ers to sign an arms con-

trol accord by the fall. A group headed by Secretary of State George Shultz and National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane is working on a summit agenda that includes the signing of a "declaration of principles" similar to the one signed by former President Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev when they met in Moscow in 1972.

That declaration, in which both sides agreed to principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual restraint and regular bilateral negotiations, created the era of "detente."

Ironically, Reagan and his conservative supporters used to lambaste that term as well as the policy.

But officials say that Reagan, prodded by First Lady Nancy Reagan, has had a change of mind on the issue and believes that establishing peace with the Soviet Union is his way into the history books.

But the question of how far the U.S. should go to end the Cold War

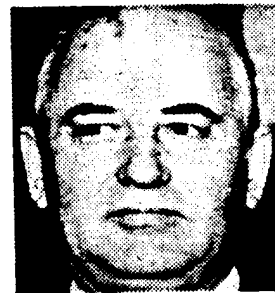
has started a major debate within the administration.

Conservatives led by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and CIA Director William Casey are known to be outraged over the handling of the shooting of U.S. Army Major Arthur Ni-

cholson in East Germany last month.

They are circulating a cable sent by Shultz to U.S. ambassadors in Europe detailing how far the U.S. want to try to downplay the March 24 slaying of Nicholson.

— NILES LATHAM



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV
"Declaration" sought.